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Contemporary research and issues on cognitive processes involved in visual word recognition:
The case of Turkish orthography

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Abstract

Although much research has been conducted over the past 60 years with the aim of understanding typical and atypical processes involved in visual word recognition, the focus has nevertheless been Anglo centric. It was not until 1990's that the focus shifted to other orthographies when questions started to be raised about the applicability of theoretical frameworks firmly rooted in English to other writing systems. This is because orthographies differ widely from each other on several accounts. One such variation in alphabetic orthographies is orthographic transparency which, simply put, is the ease with which one can derive phonology from orthography. In this respect Turkish orthography is said to be transparent because the relationship between orthography to phonology is extremely predictable. The aim of this talk is to briefly review the literature before turning the attention to research on Turkish orthography which represents a very interesting and unique orthographic medium to test the claims of several models. Findings will be presented from intact and neuropsychological studies in order to establish the current status of research on Turkish orthography and to identify future research directions from a multidisciplinary perspective.

Key words: psycholinguistics, visual word recognition (reading), Turkish orthography

Görsel sözcük tanıma sırasında kullanılan bilişsel süreçlerin çağdaş psikolinguistik bağlamda
incelenmesi: Türkçe yazı dilinin konumu

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Özet

Son 60 yıl içerisinde, görsel sözcük tanıma sırasında tipik ve tipik olmayan süreçleri tanımlamak amacı ile hayli araştırma rapor edilmiş olmakla beraber, bu araştırmaların büyük bir oranının İngilizce veya Anglo merkezli olması dikkat çekmektedir. 1990'lı yıllarda İngilizce'de kullanılan bilişsel süreçleri teorik olarak açıklayan modellerin farklı yazı dilleri için de ne kadar uygun olup olmadığı sorgulanmaya başlanmıştır. Bu sorgulamanın temel nedenlerinden biri de yazı dilleri arasında çeşitli değişkenlerden dolayı görülen farklılıklardır. Bu bağlamda, alfabetik yazı dilleri arasında harf-ses dönüşümü saydamlığı ilkesine bağlı olarak büyük farklılıkların ortaya çıktığı görülmektedir. Türkçe yazı dili, harf-ses dönüşümü son derece öngörülebilir bir özelliğe sahip olduğundan literatürde en saydam alfabetik yazı dillerinden birtanesi olarak geçer. Bu konuşmanın amacı, bu alanda yapılan çalışmaların genel bir özetini sunmak ve Türkçe yazı dilinin özelliklerinin bilişsel ve sinirbilimsel çalışmaları çerçevesinde önemini vurgulamaktır. Türkçe yazı dilinde şimdiye kadar yapılan farklı araştırmalardan elde edilen bulguların irdelenmesi ve bunların ileride yapılacak olan disiplinler arası araştırmaları nasıl yönlendirebileceği tartışılacaktır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Psikodilbilim, görsel sözcük tanıma (okuma), Türkçe yazı dili